Kuchli-Bari as a other Tin Bigha

2306. SHRI VISHWASRAO RAMRAO PATIL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in the Jansatta (Delhi) dated 2nd July, 1992 under the caption "TIN DIGHA BANGLADESH KO DEKAR SURAKSHA KHATARE ME DALI" to the effect that Kuchlibari is going to become another TIN BIGHA after handing over to Bangladesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) Yes, Sir. Government's attention has been drawn to the said news-item. Kuchlibari is not to be leased to Bangladesh and hence the question of it becoming another Tin Bigha does not arise.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Abduction/Harassment of Embassy Staff in Teheran (Iran)

2307. SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what steps have been taken by Government to protest against the abduction and harassment meted out to the two officials of Indian embassy in 1991 in Teheran, Iran; and

(b) what steps are taken by Government to minimise such harassments to the staff of the foreign embassies of India through out the world?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) The incidents were taken up strongly with Iranian authorities both at New Delhi and Tehran.

(b) Government take up every instance of harassment of the staff of our Mission abroad with the concerned host Government. Depending on the circumstances of the case, protests are lodged, action demanded against the persons responsible for the incident and the concerned Government reminded of its obligations for the safety and protection of foreign diplomats under accepted international conventions.

Agreement with Russian Federation

2308. DR. SANJAYA SINH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question 10 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 27th April, 1992 and state:

(a) whether the Agreement on Friendship and Co-operation between India and the Russian federation has since been signed; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) and (b) No Sir. The agreement stands drafted and is being considered. Details will be available when the agreement is signed.

Killing of Indian Fishermen by Sri Lankan Army

2309. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken up the issue of Sri Lankan Army shooting and killing Indian fishermen with the Government of Sri Lanka;

(b) if so, what steps are taken to protect the Indian fishermen from the Sri Lankan Army;

(c) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in the daily DINAMANI dated 12th July, 1992 relating to shooting of Indian fisherman by Sri Lankan Army; and

(d) if so, whether Government have enquired into these incidents and what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) and (b) The Government have taken up the issue of attacks by Sri Lanka Navy on Indian Fishermen on the Sri Lankan side of the international boundary line. The Government of Sri Lanka have conveyed that strict instructions have been issued to Sri Lankan Navy to refrain from any violence against Indian fishing vessels and to escort straying vessels to the Indian side of the international boundary line.

(c) and (d) Government have seen the report in DINAMANI dated 12th July, 1992 about incident of attacks by Sri Lankan Navy on Indian fishermen on 10th/11th July, 1992. The authorities concerned, both in India and Sri Lanka, are ascertaining the facts relating to them.

Applictaion for issuing passport

2310. SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the name of the Regional Passport Offices in the country which receives the maximum number of applications for the issue of new passports;

(b) whether there is any proposal to open any new passport offices in the country in the near future; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) Regional Passport Office, Bombay receives the maximum number of applications.

(b) and (c). The Government is reviewing the network of Passport offices, with a view to improving the provison of Passport services. The review would consider the need for additional Passport offices, their location and priority as also the availability of necessary additonal financial and man-power resources.

New passport offices at Mangalore an in Tamil Nadu

2311. SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER b pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is demand for opening of a new Passpor Office at Mangalore in Karnataka;

(b) if so, what steps Government hav taken in this direction;

(c) whether it is also a fact that there i a demand to open new Passport Offices i different parts of Tamil Nadu;

(d) if so, whether Government hav identified these centres; and

(e) what is Government's response t this proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THI MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) to (e) Yes Sir. There have been suggestions for ope ning a passport office at Mangalore an new passport offices in Tamil Nadu.

The Government is reviewing the net work of passport offices with a view t improving the provison of passport servi ces. The review would consider the nee for addoitinal passport offices, their loca ion and priority as also the availabil ity of necessary additional financial an man-power resources.

Joint Venture between Birla Group an U.S. Company for manufacturing Soft ware

2312. SHRI PASUMPON THA. KIRU TTINAN: Will the Prime Minister b pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Inter telecom Private Limited of U.S. and th Birla Group, have agreed as a Join Venture for manufacturing of softwar and customer support faclity manufac turing unit in the field of telecom equip ment in near future;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and